

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): (a) A DNA exhibiting a promoter activity for an angiopoietin-related growth factor, and consisting of a nucleotide sequence in which 1 to 10 nucleotides are substituted, deleted, added, and/or inserted in the nucleotide sequence consisting of nucleotides 2705-3001 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or

(b) a DNA exhibiting a promoter activity for an angiopoietin-related growth factor, and consisting of a nucleotide sequence having a 90% or more homology with that consisting of nucleotides 2705-3001 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

2. (original): A DNA consisting of the nucleotide sequence consisting of nucleotides 2705-3001 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

3. (currently amended): A recombinant vector characterized by comprising the DNA according to claim 1, ~~claim 1 or 2~~ and exhibiting a promoter activity for an angiopoietin-related growth factor.

4. (currently amended): A transformant characterized by comprising the DNA according to claim 1, ~~claim 1 or 2~~ and exhibiting a promoter activity for an angiopoietin-related growth factor.

5. (original): A method for screening an antiobesity agent, an antidiabetic agent, and/or a hypolipidemic agent, characterized by comprising the steps of:

i) bringing a substance to be tested into contact with the transformant according to claim 4, and

ii) measuring a promoter activity for an angiopoietin-related growth factor and analyzing a test substance dependent change in the promoter activity.

6. (currently amended): The screening method according to claim 5, wherein the transformant contains a reporter gene located downstream of the DNA ~~according to claim 1 or 2~~, and the promoter activity for an angiopoietin-related growth factor is measured by analyzing an expression of the reporter gene.

7. (original): A nonhuman knockout animal characterized in that a polynucleotide encoding an angiopoietin-related growth factor is functionally deficient on a chromosome.

8. (original): A nonhuman transgenic animal which is a nonhuman animal or an offspring animal thereof obtained by ontogenesis from totipotent cells in which a polynucleotide is introduced together with a CAG promoter, wherein the polynucleotide is carried on a chromosome, a polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide is expressed in a somatic cell, and the polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polypeptide exhibiting an activity of suppressing an increase in body weight, and comprising an amino acid sequence consisting of amino acids 1-450 of SEQ ID NO: 3 or amino acids 1-433 of SEQ ID NO: 5,

(b) a polypeptide exhibiting an activity of suppressing an increase in body weight, and comprising an amino acid sequence in which 1 to 10 amino acids are substituted, deleted, and/or inserted in an amino acid sequence consisting of amino acids 1-450 of SEQ ID NO: 3 or amino acids 1-433 of SEQ ID NO: 5,

(c) a polypeptide exhibiting an activity of suppressing an increase in body weight, and encoded by a DNA which hybridizes under stringent conditions to a DNA encoding an amino acid sequence consisting of amino acids 1-450 of SEQ ID NO: 3 or amino acids 1-433 of SEQ ID NO: 5, and

(d) a polypeptide exhibiting an activity of suppressing an increase in body weight, and comprising an amino acid sequence having a 95% or more homology with that consisting of amino acids 1-450 of SEQ ID NO: 3 or amino acids 1-433 of SEQ ID NO: 5.